

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A recording apparatus which records data on a recording medium comprising:

a suction unit for sucking a recording medium which has passed in a recording unit, said suction unit having a plurality of suction ports in a transporting direction of the recording medium;

wherein when the recording medium is not transported on the suction unit, the suction ports are closed, and when the recording medium is transported on the suction unit, the suction ports are sequentially opened immediately before a leading end of the recording medium reaches the suction ports so as to spread a sucking area on the suction unit in accordance with transportation of a the leading end of the recording medium.

2. (original): A recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the suction ports are opened and closed by a shutter.

3. (original): A recording apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the shutter is operated and closed by a cam mechanism.

4. (original): The recording apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein holes corresponding to the suction ports are formed on the shutter.

5. (original): A recording apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the holes formed on the shutter are provided so as to be longer on an upstream side of the transportation of the recording medium than on a downstream side of the transportation of the recording medium.

6. (previously presented): A recording apparatus which records data on a recording medium comprising:

a suction unit for sucking a recording medium which has passed in a recording unit, wherein said suction unit is positioned between a platen opposed to a recording head and discharging portion; and

a changing means for changing a sucking force of the suction means in accordance with a property of the recording medium.

7. (original): A recording apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the sucking force of the suction unit is changed so as to become larger as the recording medium becomes thicker.

8. (original): A recording apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the changing means includes an operation unit operatable for a user.

9. (original): A recording apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the operation unit is constituted by a feeding key of the recording medium in an operation panel.

10. (original): A recording apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the operation unit performs an operation of changing the sucking force of the suction unit by multi-step.

11. (original): A recording apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the operation unit is available when the recording medium is set.

12. (original): A recording apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 through 5, further comprising a means for changing the sucking force of the suction unit.

13. (original): A recording apparatus according to Claim 6, the suction unit including a plate member constituting a suction portion on a transportation surface of the recording medium and having a plurality of suction ports, a shutter provided under the plate member having a plurality of holes corresponding to the suction ports, and a fan for generating a sucking force on the suction ports,

wherein the shutter opens and closes the suction ports by relatively moving with respect to the plate member.

14. (original): A recording apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the shutter is operated and closed by a cam mechanism.

15. (original): A recording apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the suction ports are constituted by at least two rows of the suction ports, the suction ports in each row are arranged substantially perpendicular to a transportation direction of the recording medium, the holes formed on the shutter are constituted by at least two rows of the holes correspondingly to the suction ports, and the holes in a row provided on an upstream side of the transportation of the recording medium are formed longer than the holes in a row provided on a downstream side of the transportation of the recording medium.

16. (currently amended): A recording apparatus which records data on a recording medium comprising:
a plate having a plurality of suction ports; and
a vacuum that creates a negative pressure at the suction ports,
wherein the negative pressure at the suction ports is changed by selectively opening and closing the suction ports such that the suction ports are opened immediately before a leading end of the recording medium reaches the suction ports.

17. (previously presented): A recording apparatus according to Claim 16 further comprising an operation unit operatable for by a user.

18. (previously presented): The recording apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the operation unit is constituted by a feeding key for the recording medium in an operation panel.

19. (previously presented): The recording apparatus according to Claim 16 further comprising:
a shutter provided under the plate having a plurality of holes corresponding to the plurality of ports; and
a fan that creates a sucking force,
wherein the shutter opens and closes the plurality of ports by relatively moving with respect to the plate.

20. (previously presented): The recording apparatus according to Claim 19, further comprising
at least two rows of the plurality of ports; and
at least two rows of the holes formed on the shutter corresponding to the plurality of ports,
wherein the ports in each row are arranged substantially perpendicular to a transportation direction of the recording medium, and
wherein the holes in a row provided on an upstream side of the transportation of the recording medium are formed longer than the holes in a row provided on a downstream side of the transportation of the recording medium.

21. (previously presented): A recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the sucking area is defined on an area of the suction unit on which the recording medium is actually transported, and all of the suction ports in the sucking area are opened to suck the recording medium.

22. (previously presented): A recording apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said shutter is formed in a box-like member, on a surface of which a plurality of holes are arranged, and is movably provided to a plate member of the suction unit on which the suction ports are formed.

wherein one of the suction ports is in an opened state when said suction port coincides with a corresponding hole of the shutter, and

wherein the suction port is in a closed state when the suction port is shifted from the corresponding hole of the shutter.

23. (previously presented): A recording apparatus which records data on a recording medium comprising:

a suction unit for sucking a recording medium which has passed in a recording unit, said suction unit having a plurality of suction ports in a transporting direction of the recording medium,

wherein when the recording medium is not transported on the suction unit, the suction ports are closed, and when the recording medium is transported on the suction unit, the

suction ports are sequentially opened immediately before a leading end of the recording medium reaches the suction ports in accordance with transportation of a leading end of the recording medium, and

wherein the suction ports are opened and closed by a shutter.

24-25. (canceled).

26. (previously presented): A recording apparatus which records data on a recording medium comprising:

a suction unit for sucking a recording medium which has passed in a recording unit; and

a changing means for changing a sucking force of the suction means in accordance with a property of the recording medium,

wherein the suction unit includes a plate member constituting a suction portion on a transportation surface of the recording medium and having a plurality of suction ports, a shutter provided under the plate member having a plurality of holes corresponding to the suction ports, and a fan for generating a sucking force on the suction ports, and

wherein the shutter opens and closes the suction ports by relatively moving with respect to the plate member.

27. (previously presented): A recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the sucking area increases as the sucking area is spread.